

Applicant : Steven M. Knowles  
Serial No. : 09/982,928  
Filed : October 22, 2001  
Page : 5 of 5

Attorney's Docket No.: 10765-015001

BEST AVAILABLE COPY

REMARKS

Claims 2-6 have been canceled. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more clearly describe Applicant's invention. Support for the amendments can be found, for example, at page 8, lines 20-31, and the Figures. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-10 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 2,971,701 to Shames *et al.* ("Shames") or U.S. Patent No. 1,914,736 to Coutu ("Coutu"). Claims 1 and 10 are independent.

Applicant has discovered a flexible joint assembly including a first pivot joint and second pivot joint, each including a retaining ring compressing a seal member, or sealing member, by threadably connecting to a surface of the socket adjacent to a central fluid connector. Neither Shames and Coutu describes a retaining ring compressing a seal member, or sealing member, by threadably connecting to a surface of the socket adjacent to a central fluid connector.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 10, and claims that depend therefrom, are not anticipated by Shames or Coutu. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of these rejections. Applicants believe all claims should be allowed.

Enclosed is a Petition for One Month Extension of Time and the required fee. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 9-22-03



Harold H. Fox  
Reg. No. 41,498

Fish & Richardson P.C.  
1425 K Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20005-3500  
Telephone: (202) 783-5070  
Facsimile: (202) 783-2331  
40177093.doc